



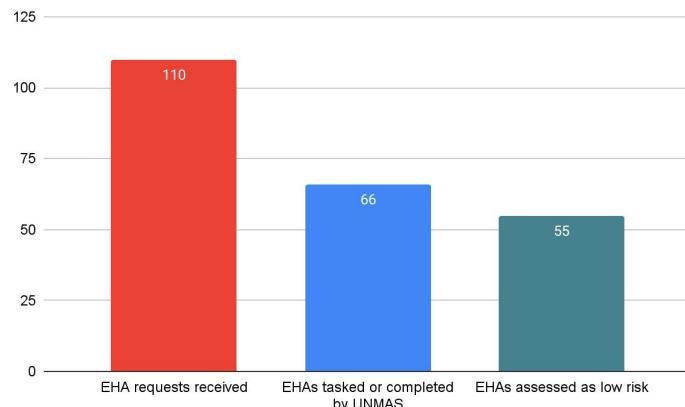
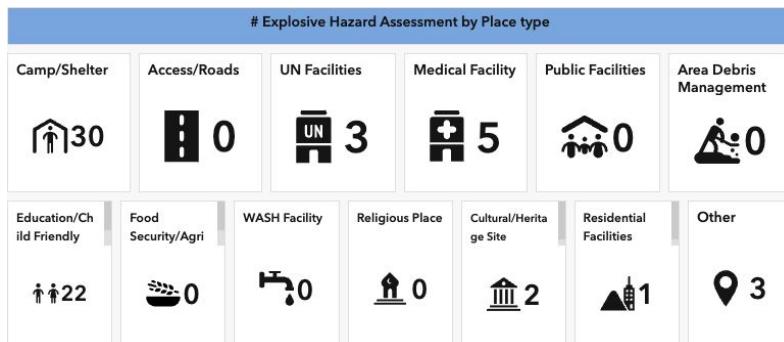
UNMAS

Occupied Palestinian Territory

March Newsletter: Adapting to Evolving Needs



The ongoing ceasefire conditions in early March allowed UNMAS to identify **237,000m²** of land as low-risk from explosive ordnance through **66 EHAs**, enabling humanitarian activities to take place on this land. Assessments of educational and child friendly facilities benefited **8,500 children**, while assessments of camps impacted almost **40,000 people** throughout Gaza.



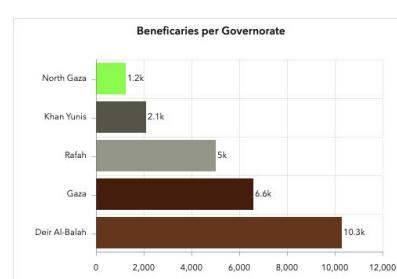
EHAs were halted when hostilities re-escalated in mid-March and EOD teams shifted their focus to interagency mission support. UNMAS supported **35 missions**, including evacuations and rotations, critical operations, and standby emergency support in northern Gaza as part of the Mission Support Team.

EORE

UNMAS trained **132 humanitarians** in risk education delivery, enabling messages to reach more people. Meanwhile, UNMAS IP, Palestinian Organization for Development, provided awareness sessions to **24,973 civilians** throughout Gaza, sharing lifesaving messaging with people.

Number of sessions

1,013



Reported Confirmed EOs

2

of EO per Governorates



Casualties reported in March (WHO)

Killed	2,780
Injured	2,011
Total	4,791

During **one** EHA, teams came across EO which they cordoned off, and EORE was provided to communities.

Response in 2025 to date

During the January-March ceasefire, EHA requests surged. However, these were halted with the re-escalation of hostilities in March. The threat caused by this re-escalation meant that UNMAS presence was needed on all interagency missions, shifting the focus of operations.

Reported Confirmed EOs

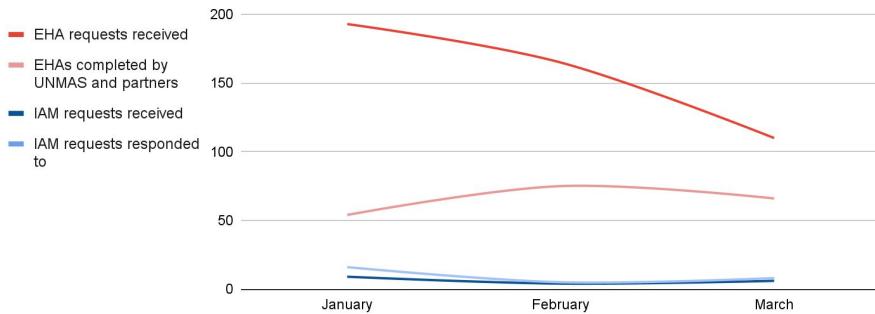
457

of EO per Governorates



EO victims since Oct 2023

Killed	26
Injured	171
Total	197



Threat since 7 Oct 2023



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In Focus:

With the ceasefire collapse in mid-March, UNMAS presence was critical - and required - for all humanitarian missions to mitigate the explosive ordnance threat. EOD Officers facilitated a range of missions, including humanitarian personnel evacuations and rotations, standby support in the north as part of the Mission Support Team, and other lifesaving humanitarian responses.

On 23 March, Israeli Forces reportedly fired upon an emergency and medical convoy in Rafah, leading to the 16 personnel on the convoy being declared as missing. OCHA coordinated an extensive mission to find the missing personnel, for which they requested UNMAS EOD expertise. Two UNMAS Officers guided the vehicles along the safest routes and provided advice about how to navigate any EO threats. When the bodies were located, UNMAS Officers were the first to approach the site, to ensure that there were no EO items present that could pose a threat to the mission. UNMAS Officers found no EO, allowing 15 bodies to be recovered and returned to their families.



UNMAS conducts an EHA of a damaged building housing displaced people, April 2025.



UNMAS conducts an EHA of a shelter displaying EORE posters. North Gaza, March 2025.



EORE:

Integrating risk education into other forms of humanitarian delivery - such as food distributions, provisions of basic needs or shelters - is an effective way of making raising awareness of how to respond to explosive threats. UNMAS worked with FAO to deliver risk education leaflets and posters to farmers and fishers along with provisions of fodder and fertilizer. These groups are particularly vulnerable to explosive threats as they spend time in open spaces which may be contaminated with EO. They were grateful that FAO could provide them with key information about how to mitigate these risks.

Through collaboration with partners and donors, UNMAS remains committed to safeguarding civilian lives and securing a safer future for communities in OPT. **UNMAS OPT** appeals to donors to continue supporting our work in providing a mine action response in Gaza and the West Bank. Invitations to provide further information about UNMAS requirements are welcome.

Thank you
for your
support
in 2025!



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